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27 April 2016

Taryn Alderdice  
Contract Management Officer  
Council Solutions  
By email

Dear Ms Alderdice

**Council Solutions & Ors application for authorisation A91520 — request for extension to be granted under section 90(10A)**

I refer to the above application for authorisation lodged by Council Solutions on 30 November 2015 and subsequent discussions regarding timing of the ACCC's assessment of the application.

As detailed below, subject to your agreement, the ACCC has decided to extend the relevant period for considering the application until 23 December 2016.

***Council Solutions request for an extension of time to provide a written submission***

On 13 April 2016 Council Solutions requested an extension of time to provide a written submission to the ACCC and noted that it is continuing to engage with industry in relation to the proposed arrangements for which authorisation is sought.

We confirm that the ACCC agrees to your request for an extension of time to provide a written submission. We would appreciate receiving Council Solutions' written submission by **30 May 2016**.

***Current statutory timeframe for the ACCC to make a final determination***

The *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Act) provides that if the ACCC does not determine an application for authorisation within the relevant period, then it is taken to have granted the application at the end of that period.

The relevant period is six months beginning on the day the ACCC received the application. If a conference is called following the draft determination, the six month period is increased by the number of days between the ACCC receiving the request to hold a conference and seven days after the conference has finished. In this case, the end of the relevant period is currently 2 July 2016.

***Request to extend the statutory timeframe for the ACCC to make a final determination***

You have advised that Council Solutions would be agreeable to extending the relevant period for consideration of the application for authorisation, in light of the additional time for Council Solutions to provide its written submission.

Section 90(10A) of the Act provides that the relevant period may be extended where:

- (a) the ACCC has prepared a draft determination under subsection 90A(1) in relation to the application; and
- (b) the ACCC determines in writing that the period is extended by a specified period of not more than six months; and
- (c) the applicant agrees to the period being so extended.

In accordance with subsection 90(10A)(b) of the Act, the ACCC has determined that the relevant period for consideration of Council Solutions' application for authorisation has been extended until **23 December 2016**, subject to your agreement that the relevant period be so extended.

***Next steps***

We seek confirmation of your agreement that the relevant period be extended until 23 December 2016. We would appreciate receiving your confirmation in writing by **28 April 2016**. Your response may be emailed to [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au).

A copy of this letter will be placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Batten on (02) 6243 1359.

Yours sincerely



Baethan Mullen  
Acting General Manager  
Adjudication Branch